

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A small-spot imaging, spectrometry instrument
for measuring properties of a sample has a polarization-
scrambling element, such as a birefringent plate
depolarizer, incorporated between the polarization-
introducing components of the system, such as the
beamsplitter, and the microscope objective of the system.
The plate depolarizer varies polarization with
10 wavelength, and may be a Lyot depolarizer with two
plates, or a depolarizer with more than two plates (such
as a three-plate depolarizer). Sinusoidal perturbation
in the resulting measured spectrum can be removed by data
processing techniques or, if the depolarizer is thick or
15 highly birefringent, the perturbation may be narrower
than the wavelength resolution of the instrument.

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